WI-581

Municipal Park, Salisbury City Park, Bandstand and Bridge

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 08-29-2003

Salisbury City Park, Bandstand and Bridge Salisbury Public

Two of the most distinctive fixtures in Salisbury's city park are the bandstand and the old foot bridge, erected with assistance form the Federal government's aid programs created during the lean years of the Depression. The bandstand is an octagonal structure supported on a raised brick foundation and the roof is distinguished by its interlocking green tiles. Nearby is the arched foot bridge, erected in a graceful segmental span supported on four iron trusses. These two distinctive structures were part of a much larger effort to improve the park lands following the devastating 1933 storm which caused a failure in the Schumaker Mill dam upstream, and as result the surge of water washed out the early park improvements.

The creation of a park on the east side of the railroad came about slowly as city officials and residents alike warmed to the idea during the years following the 1909 failure of the Humphreys mill dam. Following the dam's failure on May 28, 1909, plans were soon developed to erect a "jury" dam so that Humphreys' Lake could be refilled. A temporary dam structure was in place by July, however a heavy storm surge pushed through the temporary construction measures.

By fall plans were underway to develop the new found land instead of refilling Humphreys' Lake, and bold movements were announced in the *Salisbury Advertiser*:

This purchase includes more than thirty acres in the very center of the town, consisting of "Mill Grove," and the land adjoining, back landing, the "Locust Mill Grove" site, the Meadow, the Pond site, all of which lies West of the Railroad and something more than sixty acres lying East of the Railroad and means that the Lake will be abandoned as a lake and will be improved for business purposes.

The development of the lake site allowed for the construction of road between East Main Street and South Salisbury, thereby alleviating the need to go way around the east side of the mill pond. Filling in Humphreys' Lake began that winter with plans for widening of the railroad track to follow soon after. During the decades that followed the dam failure, new construction centered around East Main Street near the courthouse. The idea of a city park on the east side of the railroad, however, did not surface until the early 1920s and was not seriously discussed until a water shortage in the city's antiquated system was studied.

In 1925 Mayor Thomas L. Parker, Sr. negotiated the purchase of 50 acres east of the railroad for the purposes of building a new water system. Since the Water and Sewer Commission only needed a small portion of the acreage, the city park was established along the banks of the east prong of the Wicomico River.

Inventory No. WI-581

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

<u> </u>	Municipal Park				
other	Salisbury City Park, Bandstand and Bridge				
2. Location					
street and number	East Mai	n Street		1	not for publication
city, town	Salisbury	/			vicinity
county	Wicomic	o			
3. Owner of P	roperty	(give names and mailin	ng addresses of all owners		
name	City of S	Salisbury			·
street and number	Governm	ent Office Building	<u> </u>	telep	hone
city, town	Salisbury	<u>/</u>	state Maryland	zip code 21	801
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7. Description		Inventory No. WI-581		
Condition				
excellent	deteriorated			
$\underline{\mathbf{x}}$ good	ruins			
fair	altered			

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Salisbury City Park, also known as the Municipal Park, is located in the heart of the city on each side of the east prong of the Wicomico River. The park lands are bounded by East Main Street, Snow Hill Road, and Park Drive.

Distinguishing the park land on its western end are two distinctive structures erected during the early 1930s; an octagonal bandstand and arched foot bridge. The octagonal bandstand has a raised brick foundation that supports the framework of the bandstand. The foundation is approximately eight feet high with pairs of rectangular openings marking seven sides, and the eighth side has a door opening. The window openings are boarded over. Fixed atop the masonry foundation is a wooden floor with eight posts fixed around the perimeter of the octagon. Another support column rises through the center of the structure to support an octagonal roof covered in green tiles. The square posts have plain stick brackets and cross-stick railing stretch between the posts.

The arched bridge, located near the bandstand, is supported by a series of four segmentally arched iron trusses fixed to principal posts which are set into the bottom of the creek bed. The two outer trusses and shorter than the two center spans, thereby yielding an arched form for the deck. The deck of the foot bridge is supported by the iron trusses as well as the three sets of braced timbers that rise from the creek bottom. Fixed to the bridge deck is a simple board railing with a cross-stick pattern in the center of each section of railing.

8. Signific	ance	Inventory No. W		Inventory No. WI-581
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 _ 1800-1899 x 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology x architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	 health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military 	 performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates			Architect/Builder	
Construction d	ates			
Evaluation for:				
	National Register	M	laryland Register	x not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Two of the most distinctive fixtures in Salisbury's city park are the bandstand and the old foot bridge, erected with assistance from the Federal government's aid programs created during the lean years of the Depression. The bandstand is an octagonal structure supported on a raised brick foundation and distinguished by a green tile roof. Nearby is the arched foot bridge, erected in a graceful segmental span supported on four iron trusses. These two distinctive structures were part of a much larger effort to improve the park lands following the devastating 1933 storm which caused a failure of the Schumaker Mill Dam upstream thereby washing out early park improvements.

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By fall plans were underway to develop the new found land instead of refilling Humphreys' Lake, and bold movements were announced in the *Salisbury Adverstier*:

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¹ Salisbury Advertiser, 5 June 1909.

² Salisbury Advertiser, 17 July 1909.

³ Salisbury Advertiser, 13 November 1909.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. LUI 581

Name Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

after.⁴ During the decade following the dam failure, new construction centered around East Main Street near the courthouse. The idea of a city park on the east side of the railroad, however, did not surface until the early 1920s and was not seriously discussed until a water shortage in the city's antiquated system was studied.

In 1925 Mayor Thomas L. Parker, Sr. negotiated the purchase of 50 acres east of the railroad for the purposes of building a new water system. Since the Water and Sewer Commission only needed a small portion of the acreage, the city park was created.

⁴ The Courier, 13 February 1910.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-581

Name Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

The Wicomico News, July 29, 1926

Sentiment In Favor of Park Is Increasing

CITY IS SEEKING POPULAR APPROVAL

Fifty Acre Site Available For Park If Residents Voice Their Approval

Public sentiment in Salisbury is rapidly rounding into shape in favor of a municipal park. Two groups have already voice approval of the plan advocated by The Evening Times and The Wicomico News for the utilization of the city's property on East Main Street for such a purpose.

The plan was placed before the Rotary Club Thursday evening and met with hearty approval of its members. Yesterday the Civic Committee of the Chamber of Commerce voiced their approval.

City officials have stated that the property is available for use as a park and steps in that direction may be taken, they said, should public sentiment be manifested in such a proposal.

The property on East Main Street was purchased by the city and the Water and Sewer Commission for location of the water pumping station, wells, and reservoirs. Only a small portion is being used for that purpose, yet the city with a vision toward the future accepted the opportunity to acquire more than was really needed at an extremely low cost.

The site consists of 50 acres for which the city paid \$5,000. It has a frontage of 1000 feet on East Main Street and today the property may be sold for five times the original purchase price, it is said.

A pine grove occupied ten acres of the property and through the site runs a fresh water stream and empties into the Wicomico River. Many Salisburians who have visited the site consider it an ideal location for a park.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-581

The Wicomico News, various issues, microfilm at the Wicomico County Free Library.

Cooper, Philip C., Historical Sketches of Origin and Development of Municipal Park, Salisbury, Maryland, in What's Past Is Prologue, ed. by Jane Wulf Bailey, 1967.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Acreage of historical setting Quadrangle name

50 acres

50 acres

Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart		
organization	Private Consultant	date	6/27/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600

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SALISBURY, MARYLAND,

7/29/1926

Two City Groups Favor Utiliz-Park If Residents Voice Their erty For That Purpose

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URGED FOR

BAPTIST REUNION AT ANCIENT CHURCH

Thursday was the occasion of the Baptist Reunion at the Ancient church at the head of Rewastice Creek, in Barren Creek district. This was an annual feast dating back many years. The church is one hundred and fifteen years old and stands as memorial to the faith and sacrifices of a noble ancestry. The morning service was conducted by Elder G. E. Coulborn of Cape Charles, Va., who presched a good sermon.

After the sermon, the andience was invited to est dinner at the long table near the rear of the churh, beneath

near the rear of the churh, beneath the large spreading oaks. The table was well supplied with good country ham, corn bread, fried chicken and petple, cabbage, potatoes * sa ads, beets, cucumbers, reast bee, biscults. warm rolls and many other palatable dishes, such as home-made cakes, pies, tematoes. The dinner was a very attractive and highly enjoyed by

After dinner and an hour of social intercourse, the congregation was aspreached by Elder Claud Kerr of Delmai, the pastor of the church, whose grandfather was at one time occupied the same purpit. A great many people heard E.der Kerr, who is a great tavorite in that community.

YOUNGER GIRLS FROM 'Y' CAMP

Twenty-four Return From Two Week's Stay At Camp

Morris

SIX ARE WINNERS

OF CAMP AWARDS

Group Of "Older Girls" Will Leave For Vacation On Nanticoke Tomorrow

The local YMCA has completed another successful camp, with the return Thursday of 25 younger girls from their 5 teachs outling at Camp Occar L. Morris, at Bivalve, Maryland, tanned to perfection, happy and healthy after their experience on the beautiful Nanticoke.

IS URGED FOR

LAKE SWIMMER

Nanticoke.

The trip home was made in the spacious yacht "Fusty" owned by Dr. S. Norris Plichard, whose daughter Frances was among the campers, the party leaving Camp Morris at one o'clock yesterday, docked at Camden bridge at five o'clock last evening where they were met by parents and friends

Mies ! team, and match at world title

SHARPI

The Sali Motor Con into their is reported

The line Owens and Sharptown the Public cludes the ment and Company.

The line town and son Saturda days, rende

tail wagging the dog, or rather like two ls wagging the same dog. The new-county vement was the outgrowth of a feeling of lependence and importance on the part of se people on the Wicomico River.

The cry for the secession of Salisbury l its nearby towns from the mother couns of Somerset and Worcester flared up I died down at intervals for more than decades. The Civil War had shaken the ver Shore mightily and had submerged all er issues. Thus for a number of years ore the Constitutional Convention of 57, which framed the State Constitution Jer which Maryland has since operated, le had been heard of the new-county vement. No memorial had been presented the Legislature in recent years by the ople of Salisbury petitioning for the new inty; no newspaper clamor had been heard its behalf; no candidates had lately run election on a "new-county" platform and opening of railroads between Salisbury lone of its two county seats had seemed to lermine the chief argument of the secesnists - the inadequacy of transportation. us the people of lower Somerset and rcester, who had fought tooth-and-nail block the movement every time it had red its ugly head, were caught completely guard and unprepared for the Wicomico tzkrieg of 1867.

The Constitutional Convention convened Annapolis on May 8 of that year. It was led to correct certain judicial and other uses which had been found in the Contution of 1864, passed during the Civil r by the so-called radicals. Maryland by it time was Democratic, with Governor tomas Swann in the Executive Mansion. The delegates to the Convention were

eponderately Democratic.

It was this distinguished body of Marynders that was called upon to consider comico's claims to its own county.

Now, the delegates from Somerset and orcester, in campaigning for election to e Convention, had not mentioned the newnenty movement. In fact, the majority of em thought such an issue had no rightful ace in a constitutional convention, might speril the success of the whole constitution

the polls, and should be left, if condered at all, to action of the Legislature. he few who were for it kept discreetly

liet until after election.

When the roll was called on the opening ay the following responded to their names representing the two lower Shore counces: Somerset - Isaac D. Jones, Princess nne lawyer and temporary presiding of cer of the Convention, later elected first tate Attorney General under the new Contitution: Henry Page, another Princess nne lawyer and later Circuit Judge; Thomas . J. Rider, the ntico lawyer who was

Toadvine, retired Salisbury merchant; and James L. Horsey, Marion Station farmer. Worcester — Thomas P. Parker, Snow Hill farmer; Samuel S. McMaster, Newton farmer and merchant; Littleton P. Franklin, Berlin farmer; George W. Covington, Snow Hill lawyer; and J. Hopkins Tarr, young Salisbury lawyer known as Joe Tarr to his associates.

Almost before The Reverend Mr. Leech of Annapolis had finished his opening prayer on the first day of the Convention, Tarr and Rider had launched a campaign between them to write their new county of Wicomico squarely into the State Constitution.

Their first move was to poll their own delegations. Here the results were disappointingly poor. In the Somerset delegation only Rider and Purnell Toadvine of Salisbury were in favor of the new county. In the Worcester delegation Tarr stood alone in favor of it.

Thus of the ten delegates from the two counties, three were in favor of the new county and seven were opposed. These seven included at least two who were outstanding figures in the Convention, men calculated to exercise an influence not only on the Eastern and Western Shore delegates, but on the City men too. They were Isaac Jones, honored by the Convention with the temporary chairmanship and a well-known State political figure; and Henry Page, the able and fluent attorney from Princess Anne.

Less hardy souls than Joe Tarr and Tom Rider right there would have stopped dead in their tracks. It is almost unknown in State assemblies for delegates to succeed with local legislation when the majority of their own delegation is lined up in opposition. But these two men were not to be discouraged by the seeming impossibility of their mission. On the fifth day of the session Tarr presented a resolution which was passed, directing a committee to "inquire into the propriety of forming a new county out of the counties of Somerset and Worcester, and to report to the Convention thereupon."

Realizing that unusual efforts were called for, Tarr dropped all other issues and activities of the Convention to concentrate upon his new-county movement. He became, in the vernacular of the cloakroom, a single-shooter - freely trading votes with other delegates on a variety of subjects, in return for support of his own pet project.

Joe Tarr decided to line up his people behind him. He would show that public sentiment for the proposed new county was overwhelming. After introducing his resolution he immediately returned to Salisbury and launched a campaign among the townspeople to push the venture. With all the ardor and



I I D . I TI D. I OCAN

" WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE "

A History of Wicomico County, Maryland issued on the occasion of the WICOMICO COUNTY CENTENNIAL 1867 - 1967

Containing a history from the earliest times, a record of the Centennial Corporation's Participants, events of the Centennial Year scheduled at the time of publication and messages of firms contributing to Wicomico County's growth and history.

> Published By Wicomico County Centennial, Inc. A non-profit Corporation Organized to conduct the Centennial Year. 215 E. Main Street, Salisbury, Maryland

JUNE 1967

Jane Wulf Bailey - Editor Mr. And Mrs. Richard W. Cooper - Assistant Editors Pemberton Hall Foundation - Advertising Jaycees - Circulation Thurston Studio - Official Centennial Photographer

Acknowledgements

Our most sincere appreciation and thanks to all Wicomico Countians who contributed so generously of their time, talents and finances.



WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE

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and Miss Wilsie Banks for \$800.

This statesmanlike move by Mayor Parker and other responsible civic leaders was not a popular decision in this day when money was so hard to come by that financial gymnastics had to be employed on occasion to meet the weekly payroll. The Wicomico News, by blistering editorial comment castigated those irresponsible officials who had squandered public funds on this "worthless property".

In spite of this opposition, however, Mayor Parker appointed Salisbury's first Park Commission in 1927 consisting of Fred A. Grier, Jr. (Chairman), Oscar Lee Morris, Sr. and Mrs. Fred Adkins. From this day on Salisbury was officially dedicated to development of a park system.

The early development in the park area consisted primarily of construction of the water pumping station and several modest bridge and dam structures. Fill dirt was hauled by horse cart from the south side of the stream and the narrow, winding watercourse was widened and deepened to secure dirt for the initial grading operations.

For a period of time during the years of the "depression", funds were lacking and progress was slow; however, due to the persistence of the Park Commission and city officials some work was done each year. In 1930 the Wicomico County Weltare Board (Fred Webb, Chairman) was organized and provided labor for some of the early park improvements with the city furnishing tools and supervision.

Onto, that he commissioned his assistant. Clark Gardner to develop the plans and have the fountain complete in time for the festivi-

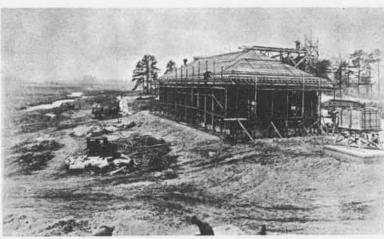
With the August storm of 1933 came flood waters that caused failure of Schumaker Dam and a flood that destroyed the primitive at 21 and so it was with Wicomico County.

structures in the park area.

being three (3) Federal Aid Programs de- and political significance. signed to give employment during the years of depression. The Civil Works Administration (C.W.A.) 1933-1935+ which .provided manpower and partial materials to match city plans and supervision; the Public Works Administration (P.W.A.) 1935-1940± which provided funds for approved contract work; and works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) 1935-1940± which succeeded C.W.A. and provided manpower, equipment and materials, while utilizing city plans and supervision,

By a combination of all three of these programs, the city under the official guidance of Wade H. Insley, Sr., Mayor; Brady Dayton, area W.P.A. co-ordinator and Clark Gardner, City Engineer proceeded, for a period of about six years, to plan and construct the basic facilities for that part of the park which lies between Snow Hill Road and Civic Avenue.

Widening and deepening of the stream, including the part which made Picnic Island, was done by hand labor methods, under the immediate supervision of A. P. Isakson who also served as street foreman for Salisbury during these years. Trees were planted, low



SALISBURY'S WATER PUMPING STATION ERECTED 1926

In 1932 Salisbury's Bicentennial focused attention on this budding park by scheduling its outdoor services and water pageant there. The new illuminated water fountain was unveiled on this occasion. Eight weeks before the Bicentenni was to begin, city engineer Frank Dryder so admired a picture post card showing ... milar fountain in Cleveland.

places filled, bridges and water channels built, two tennis courts built, North Park Drive constructed, bandstand, sheeting along the waterfront, flagpole, shrubbery and all. Many of the trees that grace the shady nork slopes were given by interested people, who donated them as a gift or \ orial.

IMPORTANT PERSONAGES

by James P. Bailey

It is recognized that one reaches maturity Born in 1867, it was in 1888 that one of its During the next few years there came into citizens first reached a position of public



E. E. JACKSON Governor 1888-1892

Elihu Emory Jackson was born November 3, 1837, entered business at an early age, served in both houses of the Maryland Legislature during 1882-1888 and in 1888 became the first and only Wicomico Countian to serve as Governor of Maryland. His home was "The Oaks" in Salisbury and for many years he was the most influential Democrat on the Eastern Shore.



WILLIAM H. JACKSON MC 1901-1905 1907-1909

Politics ran in the Jackson family and it was William H. Jackson, a brother of E. E. Jackson, born two years later in 1839, who became the first Wicomico Countian to serve the Federal government, being a member of Congress in the 57th, 58th and 60th Congress, 1901-1909 (less '05-'07). He was a leader among the Eastern Shore Republicans and gave the original Peninsula General Hospital to the community.



WI-581

JAMES CANNON, D. D. Bishop Methodist Church South 1918-1944

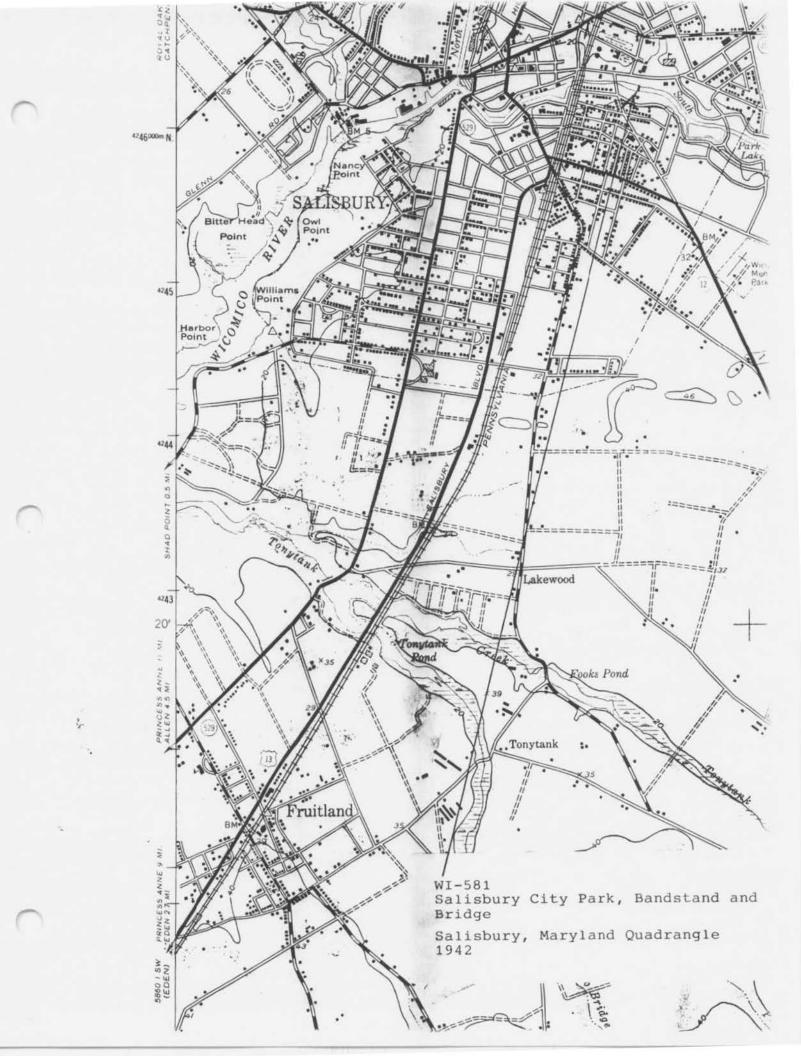
During this period Carrie Nation was mak ing her attacks on whiskey barrels and sa loons. Support for her cause was found i another Wicomico Countian whom the Ame: ican Press catapulted from his Methodis pulpit to the front page of every newspape: James Cannon, born in Salisbury, November 13, 1864, was a minister in the Methodis Church South and in 1902 he became a men ber of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Saloon League of America and a most voca exponent of its philosophy and position

With the adoption of the 18th Amendmen in January of 1919, his active prohibitio work was over except that during the A Smith-Hoover campaign of 1928, with Smit running on a ticket calling for repeal of th 18th Amendment, he served as Chairman c the Anti-Smith Democrats. Smith lost but s did Cannon, for in December of 1933 the 18t Admendment was repealed, Cannon wa elected Bishop of the Methodist Churc South in May 1918 and he died September 6 1944.



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